RULES AND CONSTITUTIONS OF THE Maiden Hospital,

Founded by the

CRAFTS-MEN

OF

EDINBURGH,

AND

MARY ERSKIN.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

Preface.

THE *Infinite wiſe Creator and Supreme Ruler of the World, hath for holy and Excellent ends, thought fit to make a diſcernable Difference in the Stations and Circumſtances of the Children of Men while they are in a ſtate of Trial in this Lower World. Higher and Subordinate Powers are Ordained of him; Magiſtracy is his Ordinance Inſtituted by him, that there might be a Regular Diſpoſal of a Beautiful Fabrick of human Societies; And therefore it may be juſtly called* 1 Peter 2. 13. *An Ordinance of Man, a human Creature or Structure; The Glorious Goſpel of our Redeemer doth not deſtroy, but firmly Eſtabliſh this Divine con-*

ſtitution of Superioritie and Inferioritie, even amongſt thoſe that are the Adopted Sons of his Father, and joynt Heirs with himſelf of the ſame Heavenly Kingdom. The Words of the Apoſtle 1 Tim. *Chap.* 6. ver. 1,2. *are a plain Proof of this*, Let as many Servants as are under the Yoke, count their own Maſters worthy of all Honour: that the Name of God and his Doctrine be not Blaſphemed, and they that have believing Maſters, let them not deſpiſe them, becauſe they are Brethren, but rather do them Service, becauſe they are faithful and beloved partakers of the benefites; *And as the Sovereign Lord hath for the Good of Mankind, appointed that there ſhould be Rulers and Subjects, Governours and thoſe*

that are Governed;So it hath pleaſed him, in the unſearchable Wiſdom of his Providence, to make ſuch a Diſtribution of the Good things of this Life,as ſome ſhould have a Larger, ſome a Leſſer ſhare of them, and others ſhould be left to be Provided for by the Compaſſionat care of their Richer fellow Rational Creatures ; So that this Varietie that is in the Circumſtances of Men as to the Comforts of this Earth, is in ſpotleſs Righteouſneſs ordered by unerring Wiſdom, which is admired and exalted in a High ſtrain of Praiſe by the Great and Religious King David, 1 Chron. 29. 10, 11, 12. *And it is Sung by Holy* Hannah *to the Praiſe of the wiſe Management of the Great God,* 1 *Sam.* 2. 7. The Lord maketh

Poor

Poor and maketh Rich, he bringeth low and lifteth up. *The Righteous Lord who is pleaſed to Order thus the Affairs of Men as to this* Life, *hath in his* Goodneſs *given many Excellent Directions for our Conduct in the Management of our ſelves, with a Reſpect to one another in our ſeveral* Stations *and Circumſtances in this World; And it is a very* Comprehenſive *one which we have,* 1 *Pet.* 3. 8, 9. Finallie be all of one Mind, be unanimouſly concerned *for the Glory of your God and Redeemer, in a Conformity to the Principles of true Religion,* having Compaſſion one of another, Love as Brethren, be pitiful, be Courteous. No *Man how Rich and Great ſoever he be, can juſtly pretend to have an abſolute*

Power

Power to diſpoſe of what he poſſeſseth according to his meer Will and Pleaſure; he is to have an awful Regard to the Rules preſcribed to him by the moſt High God the poſſeſſor of Heaven and Earth, who will Vindicat the Honour of his own Laws, and be avenged upon the Obſtinate and Proud contemners thereof. It is his Royal Law, *that* every Man ſhould Love his Neighbour as himſelf, *and the Sanction of it is of a frightful import,* he ſhall have Judgment without Mercy that hath ſhewed no Mercy, *Ja.* 2. 8, 13. *It is not left to thoſe that have not only the* Neceſſaries, *but the Conveniencies of Life, to be Charitable or not as they pleaſe, to ſuch as are* Indigent, The Earth is the Lords and the fulneſs

fulneſs thereof. *He hath Reſerved to himſelf the Sovereign Proprietie of both, and parcells them out to the Children of Men, as ſeemeth good to him; But always with this Clauſe in their* Leaſe, *that out of their Store they ſhall according to their Ability and Circumſtances ſupply the wants of the Indigent, as they would not loſe their Right and Title to what they poſſeſs, and provoke their Supreme Lord* to Curſe them in the City and in the Field, in their Basket and in their Store, in the Increaſe of their Kine and Flocks of their Sheep, and permitt them to be only oppreſſed and cruſhed always to *ſuch a Degree* that they ſhall be mad for the ſight of their Eyes which they ſhall ſee, *Deut.* 28.

16, 17, 18, 34. *I am obliged in Charity to be perſuaded, that the ſerious Conſideration of theſe things, hath Influenced the Inhabitants of the Honourable City of* Edinburgh, *both Merchants and Craftſmen, to give an Examplary Proof of their Concern for the Glory of God, for the Honour of the Holy Religion which they profeſs, and for the publick good of their City in particular, and the Land of their Nativitie in General, both as to their Religious and Civil Intereſt, to do what was in their Power, for ſupplying what was Defective as to Charitable Foundations for the Support, and the Virtuous and Chriſtian Education of Female young Ones; Which otherways, when come to riper Age, might through Povertie*

and Want, become a prey to Temptations to Wickedneſs, and be a Reproach to Chriſtianity, and a Scandal to their Nation, a Plague to Families and Societies, and bring the Eternal Wrath of God upon themſelves. Such Charity as doth plainly tend to keep off heavy Judgments from City and Countrey, cannot well be miſplaced, as that which is beſtowed upon thoſe of a mature age, may often be, through it's being abuſed to the Encouragement of Idleneſs and Sloth.

The Good, Regular and Advanced State that the Craftſ-men of this City, have by their Diligent Care & the Bounty of their ſeveral Incorporations, with the Liberal Aſſiſtance of the Worthy late Mary Erſkin, *have brought their pious Foun-*

Foundation of a Maiden Hoſpital *to, cannot but have ſome weight to prevail with Compaſſionat Chriſtians, to give their helping Hand to ſuch a pious and uſeful Work.*

I am Senſible that there have been ſo many excellent Diſcourſes upon the ſubject of Charity *and* Beneficence, *that any thing that I can pretend to ſay upon it, can only be a Repetition of what hath been ſaid to much better purpoſe, by many others; Yet ſeing it is not ſo much through Ignorance of what Men ought to know, as by want of thought and reflection with a Reſpect to what they do know, that they are often Guilty of an inexcuſable* Neglect *of many important Duties, which as Chriſtians they are obliged to perform; I ſhall only by*

way of Remembrance, ſtir up the Minds of thoſe, that have not caſt off all Regard to Religion, to ponder the weight of the Arguments, by which it urgeth ſuch a Compaſſionat Regard to our Indigent Neighbours, *as do's go beyond a mere ſaying*, be you warmed, be you filled. *The Holy Scriptures teach us, that God himſelf is pleaſed to take the Poor under his peculiar Care and Protection, Pſal.* 10. 14. The Poor Committeth himſelf to thee, thou art the helper of the Fatherleſs; and *Pſal.* 68. 5. He is a Father of the Fatherleſs, and a Judge of the Widow, in his Holy Habitation; *We are told, Prov.* 17. 5. That he that mocketh the Poor, Reproacheth his Maker; *He Robbeth him of the Honour, of the Wiſdom,*

Wiſdom, of his Government ; Shall we then have no Compaſſion upon thoſe, that are ſo much conſidered by the God of Heaven. This Almightie Creator hath in his great Goodneſs, put ſuch Honour upon Human Nature, That he hath preſcribed by our being kind and Beneficent to one another, as a part of Worſhip paid to himſelf, Ja. 1. 27. Pure and Undefiled Religion or his Worſhip is to Viſit the Fatherleſs and the Widow ; *Charity is not indeed an expiatorie Sin-Offering ; But it is a Chriſtian Sacrifice, a Thank-Offering well-pleaſing to God,* Heb. 13. 16. *It is a high Honour that the Glorious God puts upon thoſe, who by his Bleſſing upon their Lawful Endeavours, have plenty of the good things*

of

of this Life, or by his kind Providence have an Inheritance conveyed to them from their Progenitors, that he Substitutes them as Managers for him; Leaving to their care a part of his World, and requiring them to Act like himself as his Representatives; And as Compassion is his Delight, so he would have it theirs too; Is not this a great Dignitie? And shall Mortal Creatures so disparrage it, as to Act in Direct Opposition to the plain Design of it, by having little or no Regard to the Circumstances of those that are Objects of Pitie and Commiseration, how will they Answer for it, when called to give an Account of their Stewardship? It is an Unaccountable follie, that any should think, that they can never

be

be ſecure againſt Poverty and Want, but by ſcraping together at any Rate Riches and Wealth, without any concern to ſupport their ſtarving Neighbours. *The Righteous Governor of the World, hath in his Providence, given Remarkable Proofs of his Indignation againſt this Fooliſh Imagination and Mad Practice, which he hath ſuffered many of theſe heaping and diſtruſtful Earth Worms, to Live and ſee their own Miſery; Whereas it hath been found, that Liberal Men have ſtood by liberal things, ſeing then that the diſtinction, as hath been ſaid, that is in the Circumſtances of the Children of Men as to the Comforts of this Life, is an Ordinance of the Almighty Creator; Let us by having Bowels of Compaſſion to-*

wards

wards the Distressed and Indigent, Testifie the Honour and Regard we have to the Sacred Constitution of the Supreme Law-giver, and our Gratitude to our Greatest Benefactor; Let us thus make it Appear, that we give entire Credit to his Word, and that we have a full Confidence in the Wisdom, Goodness and Faithfulness of his Government; Let us Imitate and Encourage this Example of pious Charity, of which the following Paper *gives us an Account; An Example that ought to be the more Valued and Regarded, because it is given by those, who generally do, even by a Laborious Industry, make but a Moderat gain: And it must be allowed, that the Incorporations of the Crafts-men of* Edinburgh *have given a visible prooff, in their so Largely Contributing to the Charitable Foundation*

of

of a Maiden Hoſpital, *that they are* Careful to maintain good Works *while they Work with their Hands, that they may not only not be Burthenſome to others, but may have to give to him that needeth; And that their* Laudable *Practice, and the Conſideration of what is Suggeſted in theſe Lines, may have ſome Weight to Influence many to do Good, to be Rich in Good Works, and to give their Chearful Aſſiſtance for the Promoting of this, and other ſuch like great and Religious Works of Extenſive Charity;* Is the earneſt prayer of,

Your Faithful Well-wiſher in the Lord,

W. C.

RULES AND CONSTITUTIONS OF THE *Maiden Hoſpital,*

Founded by the Craftſ-men of Edinburgh, *and* Mary Erskin.

THE Free-men of the Incorporations of the Craftſ-men of *Edinburgh*, taking to their ſerious Conſideration, that there were Funds ſettled and provided for the Education and Maintenance of the Male Children of De-

cayed Burgeſſes of the Burgh, and for the Female Children of Decayed Merchants; but nothing for the Female Children of Decayed Craftſ-men of the ſaid Burgh. They after ſeveral Meetings thereanent, did, about three Years ago, unanimouſly reſolve to have an Hoſpital for the Daughters and Grand-children of the Female Sex of decayed Craftſmen, who are not able to maintain themſelves, and for other poor Maidens who ſhall be preſented by perſons who ſhould contribute to ſo Good and Pious a Work. And upon the third of *May* 1704, they procured an Act from the Council of *Edinburgh*, approving of their ſo Pious and Charitable Reſolution; and declaring

claring they would give all due Encouragement thereto. Upon which the Incorporations, by their ſeveral Contributions, having purchaſed and acquired ſome Houſes and Yeards in *Edinburgh*, for ſo pious an Uſe, did cauſe fit and prepare one of theſe Houſes for an Hoſpital, and have already ſettled therein Twenty Three Girls, with a Governeſs, and School-Miſtreſs and Servants: And having now procured an Act of Parliament, authorizing the Incorporations in carrying on ſo Pious and Laudable a Deſign, *&c.* whereof the Tenor follows; "At *Edinburgh* the 'Twenty Fifth day of *March* One 'Thouſand Seven Hundred and

Seven Years. " *Our Sovereign*
' *Lady*, with Advice and Con-
' ſent of the Eſtates of Parliament
' Conſidering, that there is a pious
' and Laudable Deſign now carry-
' ing on by the Incorporations
' of the Craftſ-men of *Edinburgh*,
' and others who joyn with them,
' Authorized by the Town Coun-
' cil of the ſaid Burgh by their
' Act dated the third day of *May*,
' 1704 Years, for Founding
' and Erecting a Hoſpital for the
' Maintenance and Education
' of the Female Children and
' Grand-Children of Decayed
' Craftſ-men and others to be
' preſented by perſons who give
' Donations thereto, which may
' be of a General Advantage, and
' eſpecially to the City of *Edin-*
burgh;

'*burgh*; Therefore Her Majeſty
'with Advice and Conſent fore-
'ſaid, do hereby Allow and Au-
'thorize the ſaid Incorporations
'of the Craftſ-men of *Edinburgh*
'and others Joyning, or who
'ſhall Joyn with them to meet
'as oft as Occaſion Requires,and
'to make ſuch Rules and Conſti-
'tutions for the carrying on,and
'Supporting of the ſaid Hoſpital
'allennarly, as they ſhall find
'Juſt and Convenient; *As alſo*,
'to ſettle ſuch Funds, as well
'out of their Publick Boxes be-
'longing to their reſpective Ad-
'miniſtrations,as private Eſtates
'as they ſhall think fit, and to
'Receive Mortifications or Do-
'nations, from any perſon who
'ſhall be pleaſed to Contribute

thereto

‘thereto; The ſaid Rules and
‘Acts to be made by them, be-
‘ing always conſiſtent with the
‘Laws of the Kingdom, and
‘with the Acts and Conſtitutions
‘of the City of *Edinburgh*; And
‘*Statutes* and *Ordains* the ſaids
‘Rules and Conſtitutions, to be
‘made by them to be as valid and
‘effectual to all Intents and Pur-
‘poſſes, for the Ordering and
‘Governing of the Hoſpital
‘abovementioned, as if they
‘were Particularly expreſt and
‘ſet down in this Act; *Where-*
‘*anent*, Her Majeſty with Ad-
‘vice and Conſent foreſaid, Diſ-
‘penſes for ever: And *Further*,
‘Her Majeſty, with Advice and
‘Conſent foreſaid, *Ordains* and
‘*Declares*, the foreſaid Hoſpital
when

'when ſet up and ſettled in it's 'Conſtitutions, and Directors 'and Overſeers, to be a Free 'Hoſpital, for the pious uſe fore-'ſaid; *With Power* to the ſaid 'Hoſpital, and it's Overſeers 'and Directors, not only to Ad-'miniſtrat the Funds and Rents 'appertaining thereto; But like-'ways to purchaſe and acquire 'Lands, Tenements and others, 'for the farder Good and Ad-'vantage thereof; And for that 'end, to Make, Grant and Re-'ceive all manner of Deeds and 'Writes, Neceſſary for that Ef-'fect: And to have a Seal if they 'ſhall think needful, and with 'ſuch Inſcriptions as they ſhall 'appoint for the Confirmation 'of the ſaids Deeds; And Gene-

rally

'rally to have all ſuch Powers,
'Liberties and Immunities of a
'Free Hoſpital, for pious uſes, as
'any other Hoſpital for the
'like uſes hath, or by the Law
'may have within this Kingdom.
'Extracted furth of the Records
'of Parliament, by me Sir *James*
'*Murray* of *Philiphaugh*, one of
'the Senators of the Colledge of
'Juſtice, Clerk to the Parliament,
'and to Her Majeſtys Councils,
'Regiſters and Rolls, *Sic Sub-*
ſcribitur Ja. Murray, *Cls. Reg.*

After obtaining the foreſaid Act of Parliament, the forenamed Pious and Worthy *Mary Erſkin* Relict of *James Hair* Druggiſt Burgeſs of *Edinburgh*, (who was the firſt who Projected and Deſtinated Funds for *Maiden Hoſpitals*

Hoſpitals in the City of *Edinburgh*) Gave and Granted a great and Conſiderable Donation to the Hoſpital ; For which it is unanimouſly agreed, that She ſhall be aſſumed unto the Title as a Founder of the Hoſpital,and that two of the Name of *Erskin*, ſhall be for ever Governours thereof, to be Named by the ſaid *Mary Erskin* during Her Life, (and who hath accordingly Named Maſter *James Erskin* of *Grange* one of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice, and Maſter *David Erskin* Advocat for all their Life-times ;) And after Her Death by the Repreſentative of the preſent Family of *Mar*,under whatever Deſignation it may then happen to be ; And that

that the ſaid *Mary Erskin* during Her Life, and after Her Death, the two Governours of her name, ſhall have the Preſentation of all the Girls whom ſhe hath Right to preſent, conform to Her Donation; And that the Eldeſt of the Governours of the ſaid Name, ſhall preſide in abſence of the Conveener, and ſhall keep one of the three Keys of the Hoſpitals Charter-houſe, as the Right and Diſpoſition made and granted by the ſaid *Mary Erskin* in Favours of the Hoſpital at more length bears.

In Purſuance of that part of the Act of Parliament anent the Rules and Conſtitutions, the Deacon Conveener, Remanent Deacons of the ſeveral Incorporations

porations of the Craftſ-men of *Edinburgh*, Contributers, and the two Trades Counſellors and others joyned with them, and the ſaid Lord *Grange* and Mr. *David Erskin*, after ſeveral meetings and ſerious Conſideration, *Have unanimouſly* Agreed and Reſolved upon the Rules following, *viz.*

I.

The Freemen Craftſ-men of *Edinburgh*, and the ſaid *Mary Erskin*, being the Founders of the Hoſpital, the ſame ſhall now and in all time coming, in all Inſcriptions, Acts, Contracts, or other Writes, be Named and called the *Maiden Hoſpital* Founded by the Craftſ-men of *Edinburgh*, and *Mary Erskin*.

II.

II.

The Deacons for the time of the ſeveral Incorporations, Contributers to this good Work, and the two Trades Counſellors, and two of the Name of *Erſkin* (nominated, as is hereafter declared) are perpetually to be Governours of the ſaid Hoſpital. And there ſhall be choſen (in manner as is hereafter appointed) Yearly on the ſecond *Monday* of *October*, as many as with the ſaids Deacons, two Trades Counſellors, and two of the Name of *Erſkin*, ſhall make up Twenty and Seven Perſons, and theſe Perſons elected are alſo to be Governours of the ſaid Hoſpital, during one Year next enſuing their Election;

and

and in caſe ofthe removing of any of theſe elected Governours by Death, or otherways, the other Governours for the time ſhall, by plurality of Votes, chooſe a Perſon to ſupply the Vacancy. The Conveener for the time is to preſide in all Meetings, and in his Abſence, the Eldeſt Governour of the Name of *Erskin* is to preſide; and in Abſence of both, a Preſes is to be choſen by Vote.

III.

The Governours to be yearly elected, ſhall be choſen by the ſaids *D*eacons of the Incorporations, Two Trades Counſellors, and two Governours of the Name of *Erskin*, and every *D*onator who gives

gives 2000 Merks to the Hoſpital, ſhall, during his Life, and after his Death, any he ſhall appoint by Write, have a Vote in Electing theſe yearly added Governours; *As alſo*, the ſaids Donators ſhall have a Vote in any other Concern of the *Hoſpital* at a general Meeting of the Governours, and they themſelves ſhall alſo be capable to be elected Governours.

IV.

The preſent Deacons of the Incorporations, Contributers, and the two preſent Trades Counſellors, and the Lord *Grange*, and Maſter *David Erskin* Advocat, Named by the ſaid *Mary Erskin*, to be Governours during all the Days of their Lifetime, and

theſe

theſe now joyned with them; And none elſe are to have the full Adminiſtration and Government of the *Hoſpital* and whole Eſtate thereof, until the ſaid 2*d*. Monday of *October*, which is to be the firſt Annual Council-day of Electing the New Governours, to be joyned to the Deacons and Trades Counſellors, and two Governours of the Name of *Erskin*, who are to be perpetual Governours, as ſaid is. But none of the Governours are to have Vote or Intereſt in the Concerns of the *Hoſpital*, either for Rents or Election or any other thing, until they take the Oath following, which is to be Adminiſtrat by the Clerk, firſt to the Deacon Conveener, or Preſes for the

time; And by the Deacon Conveener or Preſes to all the reſt of the Governours. *I* A. B. *Do Faithfully Swear and Promiſe before God, that to the beſt of my Knowledge and Power, I ſhall Carry and Demean my ſelf in all Matters which concern the Election of the Officers or Schollars, or any thing elſe belonging to the* Maiden Hoſpital, *Founded by the Craftſ-men of* Edinburgh *and* Mary Erskin, *Truly and Honeſtly. And if I know any going about at any time to Defraud or Prejudge the ſaid pious Work, I ſhall obſtruct it to my Power, and reveal it to the Governours for the time.* So help me GOD.

V. The

V.

The meetings anent the Elections or other concerns of the *Hoſpital*, ſhall either be in the *Hoſpital*, or *Magdalen Chappel*, or ſome other convenient place, to which the Conveener for the time ſhall think fit to cauſe warn them.

VI.

Upon the ſaid ſecond *Monday* of *October* yearly, there ſhall be choſen by the then Deacons and two Trades Counſellors, and two Governours of the Name of *Erſkin*, and the New Governours to be choſen and added to them that day by plurality of Votes, an ſufficient and qualified Man to be Treaſurer to the ſaid *Hoſpital* for one Year, whoſe Office ſhall be

to Receive all the *Hoſpital*'s Rents, to keep all Stock and *M*oney belonging to the *Hoſpital*, to pay Wages and Allowances due to the Officers and Schollars, or any other thing belonging to the *Hoſpital*, to look Diligentlie to the Reparations of the Buildings of the *Hoſpital*, to deliver Weekly to the Miſtreſs, ſo much Money as may provide the Dyet of the whole *Hoſpital*, for that Week; And to take in an Accompt each Week how the ſame is depurſed WITH POWER to him to Control or Allow, what Accompts relates to the *Hoſpital* as he finds Juſt; And the Treaſurer before he exerce in preſence of the Governours ſhall Solemly Swear

Swear the following Oath. *I* A. B. *Elected Treaſurer of the* Maiden Hoſpital *Founded by the Craftſ-men of* Edinburgh *and* Mary Erskin, *do Swear and Faithfully Promiſe with my beſt Skill and Power, to Diſcharge all that is Required of Me by the Statutes of the ſaid* Hoſpital, *Truly and Honeſtly.* So help me GOD. And Captain *John Wightman* Skinner Burgeſs of *Edinburgh*, being formerly choſen Treaſurer, and having given his Oath for Faithful Adminiſtration, is to continue in that Station until the firſt Annual Election, being the ſaid ſecond *Monday* of *October* next to come; And it is hereby Declared and Ordained, that a Treaſurer, ſerving the ſaid *Hoſpital*

without Fee or Sallary, ſhall have a Vote as other Governours, He being always a Benefactor, and his *D*onation Recorded.

VII.

The Treaſurer may be continued two years, or more, if the Governours ſhall think fit to Elect him of New yearly; and he ſhall yearly make his Accompts of his whole yearly Intromiſſions, & give in the ſamen to the Auditors the firſt *Monday* of *October* yearly, who ſhall be obliged to deliver in the ſaids Accompts with their Report of the ſamen to the Governours, the ſaid ſecond *Monday* of *October* yearly, being the Annual Meeting: And the Governours of the *Hoſpital* are to

finiſh and conclude their Approving or Diſproving of the ſame Accompts, before the admiſſion of the New Governours for the year enſueing ; And at his Removal from his Office, he ſhall deliver up to the ſucceeding Treaſurer all Accompts and Papers which belong any way to his Office, or may give inſight for Diſcharging the ſame, which are to be kept in good Order, allowing always the Benefactors who are alive for the time and after their Death, whom they ſhall appoint by Write to be preſent if they pleaſe with the ſaid Auditors, in their Auditing the ſame Accompts. If the Treaſurer ſhall Die, or by any Neceſſity be Removed, the Governours ſhall with-

within eight days of his Death or Removal, proceed to the Election of a New one.

VIII.

Upon the ſaid ſecond *Monday* of *October* yearly, there ſhall be choſen by the Deacons of the Incorporations who are Contributers, and the two Trades Counſellours for the time, and the two Governours of the Name of *Erskin*, and theſe to be added to them who are the Governours for the enſueing year, Nine of themſelves, to be a Committee, for the more eaſy manadging of the Conſiderable Affairs and Concerns of the *Hoſpital*; And five of theſe nine to be a *Quorum*, and Auditors of the Treaſurers and

and all other Accompts belonging to the *Hoſpital*, and for taking in the Treaſurers Accompts Monthly, and preparing of the ſamen, that they may be the more readily Audited and Diſcharged at each years end, upon the ſaid ſecond *Monday* of *October* yearly. And the Treaſurer with any five of theſe nine, are Impowered to Order and Manadge all the ſmaller Affairs of the *Hoſpital*, and to meet as oft for that Effect as they think fit; Which nine or their *Quorum*, are to choiſe their own Preſes at their Meetings; but as to the matter of Election of the Governours, or anent the Rents of the *Hoſpital*, or the Government thereof, or any other great Concern

cern of the ſame, all the Governours that are in Town for the time, ſhall be Warned by the Officer of the *Hoſpital* to the Meetings thereanent; And what ſhall be concluded, by Plurality of Votes, ſhall ſtand in Force, there being always preſent at theſe Meetings no leſs than fifteen of the Governours. It is Declared that the Governours for the time, may be preſent at all Committees and Sub-committees, if they think fit, whether Warned or not, and Speak, Adviſe, and Vote therein.

IX.

Upon the Death, Demiſſion, or Deprivation of the Clerk, at leaſt within 20 days thereafter, there is to be choſen another Clerk to the ſaid

Hoſpital

Hoſpital to continue during Life and good Behaviour, who ſhall keep in good Order, and Digeſt all the Evidents and other Papers belonging to the *Hoſpital*, and make and keep Books of a full and particular Record thereof, and to attend the Meetings, and form what Orders and Reſolutions are done therein, and take the Oath in the ſame Form as is expreſt in the Oath of the Treaſurer, *Mutatis Mutandis*. And upon his Death or Removal, the Governours ſhall proceed within Twenty days to the Election of a New one; the Clerk is to have paid quarterly to him by the Treaſurer the Sum of

And *William Brown*
Writer

Writer in *Edinburgh* being formerly Choſen Clerk, and given his Oath for Faithful Adminiſtration, is to continue in that Station during his Life and Faithful Adminiſtration.

X.

The preſent Governours have already Elected and Settled an Old Gentlewoman Named *Iſobella Grant* Relict of *Francis Forbes* Gentleman, who voluntarly offered her Service to ſo Charitable a Work *Gratis* ; She is to continue in that Station during her Life and good Behaviour, and after her Death or Removal, the Governours for the time are within *Fourty* days to ſupply her place, by Electing another fit and

and qualified perſon for that Station. The ſaid *Iſobella Grant* and theſe who ſuceed to that Office, are to take care that the Schollars and Servants be brought up in the Fear of God, and ſhall Catechiſe and Inſtruct the Schollars in the Principles of the Chriſtian Reformed Religion; And Correct them for Faults when Occaſion requires, and ſhall take in the Weekly Accompts, and deliver the ſame to the Treaſurer, with her Opinion thereanent; They are to be Unmarried perſons not under *Fourty* years of Age, before their Admiſſion; they ſhall be obliged to take the Oath following. *I* A. B. *Elected Miſtreſs and Governeſs of the* Maiden Hoſpital *Founded*

ded by the Craftſ-men of Edinburgh *and* Mary Erskin, *Do Swear and Faithfully Promiſe before* God, *that to my beſt Power I ſhall Diſcharge all which the Statutes of the ſaid* Hoſpital *require from me; And ſhall do my beſt to ſee all the Statutes of the ſaid* Hoſpital *obſerved by others whom they do Concern, and do Promiſe faithful Obedience to the preſent Governours of the ſaid* Hoſpital *and their Succeſſours in Office.* So help me GOD. After which ſhe is to get Poſſeſſion of the Miſtreſs's Lodgings by ſome of the Governours, and publickly in preſence of the Children and Servants, Declared Miſtreſs and Governeſs; and they Commanded to give her all Obedience, under the pain of being expelled from

from the *Hoſpital*; She is to have her Dyet at a Table croſs at the Head of the other, and ſhall not be any Night out of the *Hoſpital* without the leave of two at leaſt of the Governours, and ſhall have a Care to ſee the whole Chambers and Office-houſes kept Clean and Neat; If ſhe marrie, her place thereby ſhall become Void, or if ſhe be convicted of any Scandal before the Governours ſhe ſhall be depoſed; If at any time ſhe be found Remiſs and Negligent, ſhe is to be publickly admoniſhed thereof by the Governours, which Admonition is to be Regiſtrat, and if thereafter ſhe Offend in like manner, ſhe is to be depoſed; and if through Infirmity or Old Age ſhe

ſhe become uncapable to exerce the Office, which is to be cognoſced by the Governours, ſhe is to be Reſpectfully diſmiſſed: But if ſhe have ſerved above Ten years and not able to maintain her ſelf, ſhe is to be allowed Lodging and Maintenance in the *Hoſpital* during her Life, if ſhe pleaſe to accept thereof. In caſe of her Depoſition, Death or Demiſſion, the Governours are to proceed to the Election of a New Miſtreſs or Governeſs within Fourty Days thereafter; The Governeſſes ſucceeding to the ſaid *Iſobella Grant*, are to Receive Quarterly from the Treaſurer the Sum of

XI,

XI.

The preſent Governours have already Elected and Settled *Iſobell Forbes* Daughter to the ſaid *Francis Forbes* Gentleman to be School-miſtreſs, who is to continue in that Station during her Life and good Behaviour, whoſe Office and her Succeſſors ſhall be to teach the Children to Read, Work Stockings, Lace, coloured and white Seam, Spinning, Carding, Waſhing and Dreſſing of Linens, Dreſſing of Meat, Cleaning of Houſe, and all ſort of Needle-work and other ordinary Houſe-hold Thrift; And if they can to teach the Girls alſo Writing, Arithmetick, and the Common parts of Vocal Muſick, And

if Women cannot be found to teach the whole Arts and Virtues abovementioned, then the Governours are to provide an Honeſt Man for ſome part thereof, to come to the *Hoſpital* at ſuch Hours as ſhall be appointed and thought Convenient, who is to be Satisfied for his pains by the Treaſurer; For the Schoolmiſtreſſes their qualities of Life, good Report, *&c*: and for the manner of their Election, Admiſſion, Admonition, Depoſition and Election of a New one in their place; It ſhall in all points be obſerved as is expreſſed in the Rules which concern the the Governeſs, they muſt be unmarried and each of them ſhall

Receive

Receive from the Treaſurer Quarterly the Sum of

XII.

The Governours for the time, ſhall have Power to Cognoſce and and Judge any Tranſgreſſion and Fault committed by the Treaſurer, Clerk, Governeſs, and Schoolmiſtreſs, and conſider whether the ſame merits Deprivation or not, and Determine accordingly.

XIII.

There ſhall be choſen a Woman of Good and Honeſt Report to be Cook to the *Hoſpital*, ſhe ſhall be charged with the clean & exact dreſſing of the Victuals, Two or Three of the Children who are Educat in the *Hoſpital*,

ſhall be time about appointed by the Miſtreſs to be preſent and aſſiſt at the dreſſing of the Victuals, that they may Learn to handle Meat Neatly; She ſhall have the keeping of all *Utencils* belonging to the Kitchen delivered to her by Inventary; ſhe ſhall deliver up her Accompts for Bread, Drink, Candle, and other things belonging to her Charge to the Miſtreſs Weekly, or as oft as ſhe ſhall be required; ſhe ſhall be choſen in manner foreſaid,& continue during pleaſure allanerly; ſhe ſhall Receive from the TreaſurerQuarterly the Sum of

for her Wages; And as to the reſt of the Servants that may be needful for the ſaid *Hoſpital*, it

is

is left to the Governours diſcretion to provide ſuch, and give them ſuch Allowances as they ſhall think fit.

XIV.

There ſhall be Choſen and Admitted into the ſaid *Hoſpital*, ſo many Children as the Revenue of the ſaid *Hoſpital* ſhall be able to maintain, *Deductis Deducendis*. And theſe Girls preſented by the Incorporations, are to be the Children or Grand-children of the Freemen Craftſ-men of their own Incorporations, which failing, any other they pleaſe, of whoſe Poverty and Need of the help of the *Hoſpital*, the Incorporation who preſents them are to be Judges; but the Donators to the *Hoſpital*

who have Right to preſent, by giving a Donation of 2000 *Merks* may preſent any Girl they think fit, whether Craftſ-mans Daughter or not, it being made appear to the Governours or their Committee before mentioned, by a Declaration under the Hand of the Donator who hath Right, and preſents a Girl, that ſhe is an Object of Charity; which Declaration ſhall be a ſufficient Inſtruction of her Poverty. For each 2000 *Merks* Donation, the Perſon giver thereof during his or her Life, and after their *D*eath any they ſhall appoint by write, hath a Title to preſent a Girl, and as oft as the preſentation ſhall Vaick, they ſhall have the Renewing thereof; And if any two Perſons ſhall jointly

joyntly give in 2000 *Merks* of their own proper means, they ſhall have the preſenting of a child *alternis vicibus*, or as they ſhall Agree; The Girls to be admitted to the *Hoſpital* muſt be Wholeſom and Sound of their Body at their Entry, and capable to Learn, and muſt not be under ſeven years of Age, nor above Twelve years when they Enter; And are to continue in the *Hoſpital* until they be Eighteen years of Age and no longer: And each of them at their Entry muſt be Decently Apparrelled at the ſight of the Governours and Treaſurer; and when that Apparel is worn, their Apparel afterwards is to be all of one Piece, without diſtinction of Perſons, and as plain

plain as may be, and all of one Collour, and with ſuch *Mark* as the Governours ſhall appoint; But when they go out of the *Hoſpital* at Eighteen years of Age, they are to be Cled in New Apparel diſtinct from what they did wear in the *Hoſpital*, each Girls Apparel not exceeding the Sum of an Hundred Merks *Scots*, which is to be paid by the Treaſurer. The ordinary time of Receiving in of the Girls is to be the firſt *Monday* of *November* yearly, when it is to be conſidered by the Governours what Vacancies there are, and how many the Eſtate and Revenue of the *Hoſpital* is able to Maintain, that ſo many Qualified as is before expreſt be then taken in, who

ſhall

ſhall have Lodging, Bed, Dyet, Waſhing and Common Fires allowed to them, beſide their being Educat and Taught in manner aforeſaid: And ſhall be Comely and Decently Apparelled both in their Cloaths and Linnings.

XV.

In Reſpect frequent loſſes fall out in Lending Money, it is Enacted and Appointed, That no Money belonging to the ſaid *Hoſpital*, be laid out or Imployed but by an Act of the Governours, Voted by way of Billeting; And that either for purchaſſing of Land, or Lent upon real Security of Land repute free of Incumberances, or to the Town of *Edinburgh* on the Towns Security, or

to

to any other Three Reſponſal Perſons upon their Bond, bound Conjunctly & Severally, Providing the Sum Lent to theſe Three Perſons do not exceed Five-Thouſand Merks.

XVI.

It is hereby Declared, That the Blanks for Fees or Sallaries in the foreſaids Rules and Conſtitutions may be filled up by the Governours after due Conſideration and Experience of what may be ſuitable to be allowed.

XVII.

It is hereby Ordered and Appointed, that each Donators Name and Deſignation ſhall be put up in the Hall of the ſaid

Hoſpital

Hoſpital in Gold Letters, and the Sum mentioned there which they gave in Donation.

XVIII.

That there be a Room one or moe ſet apart for the ſick Children, to be kept ſeparat from the other Children, and that every ſick Child have a Bed by her ſelf.

XIX.

That the Donators who have the Right and Title to Preſent upon a Vaccancie may have timeous Advertiſement; There ſhall be a Broad affixed upon thePrincipal Entry of the *Hoſpital*, giving Notice to which Perſon the Preſentation falls.

XX.

XX.

It being Neceſſary that the Rights, Evidents and other writes of Importance belonging to the ſaid *Hoſpital*, be kept Safe and in good Order; And likeways, when there ſhall be at any time, through God's Bleſſing, a greater Sum lying *in Specie*, than what is like to be neceſſary for defraying the ordinary Expences, it were hard that the Treaſurer ſhould be troubled with ſo great a Charge: Therefore both with reſpect to the Papers and Money, it is Recommended to the Governours with their Conveniencie, to order a pended Room in the *Hoſpital*, to be made all Stone, with a good Fire-light, and a Door of Iron, with three different Locks

and

and Keys; One whereof to be kept by the Deacon Conveener for the time, another by the Eldeſt Governour of the Name of *Erskin*, and one by the Treaſurer of the *Hoſpital* for the time.

XXI.

It is Declared, That for the better Eſtabliſhing and Ordering this Good and Pious Work, by ſetling the Rules thereof, after due experience, in the beſt manner, that the Governours (and all Contributers if they think fit) are to meet every year at *Edinburgh* in the Hall of the *Hoſpital*, upon the 2*d*. *Monday* of *January*, beginning the firſt yearly Meeting upon the 2*d*. *Monday* of *January*, One Thouſand ſeven Hundred & eight

eight years. At theſe Meetings it ſhall be Leiſume to theſe Conveened, providing their Number be ſeventeen or more, to re-conſider the foreſaids Articles and Rules,and to add thereto,and Order whatever they find Juſt and Neceſſar for the good of the *Hoſpital*, the ſamen being always conſiſtent with the fore-mentioned Rules and Conſtitutions,and particularly theſe in Favours of the ſaid *Mary Erskin*,as they are contained in the forementioned Diſpoſition made by her to the ſaid *Hoſpital*, and theſe Additions and Orders to be Determined by the plurality of Votes of theſe Conveened. And it is Declared Leiſum to all Ladys and other Women, who are or ſhall be Benefactors

factors to the *Hoſpital*, to have their Proxies in the ſaid yearly Meetings, they always having written Mandats for that Effect.

XXII.

The Articles and Rules beforementioned and ſet down, Conſiſting of eight Pages in the Principal Subſcribed Rules, each page thereof being Signed by *Gilbert Somervel* preſent Deacon Conveener, and Mr. *James Erskin* of *Grange* one of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice, are unanimouſly Agreed to, and ſetled in manner foreſaid. We the preſent Governours and Contributers Subſcribers hereto, Bind and Oblige us and our Succeſſors, who ſhall be Concerned in the *Hoſpital*, to keep and obſerve the ſame faithfully and firmly, according

to

to the true Meaning and Intent thereof; *Declaring*, that the Perſons who ſhall afterwards Subſcribe and Contribute for Advancing the ſaid good Work, may likeways at the ſame time Subſcribe to theſe preſents; And if need be's, That afterward a Ratification of the foreſaids Rules and Conſtitutions (or as they ſhall be Amended) may be procured from the Parliament, which is Recommended to the Governours of the *Hoſpital* for the time, to ſee done. In Witneſs whereof, We have Subſcribed theſe Preſents with Our Hands, at *Edinburgh* the ninth Day of *September*, One Thouſand ſeven Hundred and ſeven Years.

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FINIS.